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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR JUNE 30, 2005

This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for June 30, 2005.

Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

ZAMAN: Three terrorists were killed in a clash in the Idil district of Sirtak province. The officials announced that one of the terrorists killed was found to be the person who laid an ambush killing seven soldiers in the Nusaybin district of Mardin in December 2003. Meanwhile, large-scale operations have been launched in southeastern Turkey as a result of the increased intensity of mine ambush attacks organized by the terrorists.

ZAMAN: The paper reports that, in view of the activities of Evangelists in Turkey, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the MIT intelligence center reportedly secretly warned Governors not to accept official visit requests from a German Protestant Church delegation which was visiting southeastern Turkey last week. Reportedly, the secret warning issued by the Turkish Parliament stated that Evangelists are supporting the terrorist organization PKK and working towards the goal of not accepting Turkey to the EU unless Turkey accepts the Armenian issue.

ZAMAN: DEHAP National Chairperson Tuncer Bakirhan called on the government to lower the 10% national threshold needed to win seats in the Turkish Parliament to 3%.

BOLGE/CUMHURİYET: The CHP party organization's opposition group in Adana will be holding a meeting at 12 o'clock today in the party building in Adana. It will be largely attended by the former provincial and district chairpersons of the party. The meeting, whose theme is reportedly "Embracing the Public", reportedly aims to promote the ties of Adana's CHP with people in Adana. The alleged failures of the Serdar Seyhan's current party administration weakened these ties, according to the report of the paper.

SABAH (GUNEY): St.Petrus and St.Paulus days were celebrated in Antakya's St.Pierre Church. The Vatican ambassador to Turkey, Edmond Farhat, invited everybody to pray for peace in Middle East and in the whole world during the celebration ceremony. The Hatay Governor, Hatay Security Director and Hatay Mufti participated in the ceremony, as well. Hatay Governor Abdulkadir Sari said that all people, regardless of their religious beliefs, should know the value and importance of peace.

EKSPRES: A 30-person group in Adana staged an unauthorized demonstration in Adana to protest the killing of 17 terrorists in the Ovacik district of Tunceli (see press summary 06/20).

EKSPRES/OZGUR GUNDEM: A left leaning 15-person group in Mersin protested the killing of terrorists in the Ovacik district of Tunceli (see press summary 06/20). An angry former MHP provincial chairperson showed reaction to the group and shouted, "You are killing Turkish soldiers, are not you ashamed of yourselves?" The police calmed down the angry person and the protestor group continued to make a press announcement.

OZGUR GUNDEM: The Mardin Prosecutor initiated an investigation against Tunceli Democracy Platform members, who attended the court session of Ahmet and Ugur Kaymaz case in Mardin, allegedly on the charges that the members of the platform are "inciting separatism among people."

OZGUR GUNDEM: Abdulkadir Aygan, a former JITEM (Jandarma Intelligence Center) member and now a confessor, reportedly shed light on the disappearance of Edip Aksoy and Orhan Cingoz in the Cudi Mountains in 1995 following their detention. Aygan reportedly confessed that the two persons detained were killed after being interrogated and were buried in a place across from the TPAO's (National Crude Oil and Natural Gas Company) Cudi Mountain facilities.

EVRENSEL/OZGUR GUNDEM: The Diyarbakir Heavy Penalty Court said it lacked jurisdiction for the complaint filed by the Diyarbakir Bar Association and Diyarbakir Branch of the Human Rights Association on February 2005. The complaint was filed against 40 people, including the former State of Emergency Governors of the Southeastern Turkey, based upon the confessions made by former JITEM member Abdulkadir Aygan.

OZGUR GUNDEM: The paper reports the interview of a TAK (Kurdistan Liberation Hawks) member with Mesopotamian News

Agency announcing that the organization would allegedly be staging terrorist activities with bombs in many cities of Turkey in the coming days.

HURRIYET: An American soldier was handcuffed briefly by Turkish officials on Incirlik Airbase in November 2004, according to the U.S. officials, when the American soldier attempted to approach a plane landing at the base without obtaining prior permission.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

1. HURRIYET/EKSPRES/SABAH(GUNEY)/ZAMAN/BOLGE: Water melon producers in Adana's Karatas district of are frustrated about not being able to sell their produce despite water melon's very low price in the market.

2. ZAMAN/BOLGE: The paper reports that despite the recent lifting of the ban Russia imposed on its vegetable and fruit imports from Turkey, Russia have not resumed its imports from Turkey. Greece and Iran reportedly are filling the gap created by the absence of Turkey in the market. Meanwhile, Bolge reports that only the ban on 109 items has been lifted from among the 136 types of produce. According to the paper, farmers were frustrated to find out that the ban on vegetable-and-fruit items actually was not lifted.

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